

**Madison Brame**

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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 2:59 PM  
**To:** Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Osenbach, Matt; Glendon King; Franzese, Evan B.; Eyster, Emily; IRRC  
**Cc:** c-jflanaga@pa.gov  
**Subject:** Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577)

**CAUTION: \*\*EXTERNAL SENDER\*\*** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**Re: eComment System****The Environmental Quality Board has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards (#7-577).**

Commenter Information:

David Masur  
PennEnvironment (david@pennenvironment.org)  
1528 Walnut St Suite 1400  
Philadelphia, PA 19102 US

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Comments entered:

No text comments were provided as part of this comment submittal. Please refer to attachments below.

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These links provide access to the attachments provided as part of this comment.

Comments Attachment: [7-577 PennEnvironment Triennial Review comments 1.pdf](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Ezra Thrush

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Ezra Thrush  
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PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 2063  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063  
Office: 717-783-8727  
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ecomment@pa.gov

November 21, 2023

Dear PA-DEP,

As part of the current public comment period for the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) 2023 proposal for the Delaware River's Triennial Review, we respectfully request that the Department remove its current policy that sets lower water quality standards for a section of the Delaware River that flows past many of our districts, and is enjoyed by so many of our constituents: through Philadelphia and the City of Chester.

**Instead, we respectfully request that DEP designate this 27-mile stretch of the Delaware River for "primary contact water quality standards" within the agency's finalized 2023 Triennial Review.**

Yet for years, DEP has kept a rule on the books that allows more pollution into the 27 miles of the Delaware that flow through Philadelphia and down to Chester, than is allowed anywhere else along the other 300 miles of the Delaware River.

On behalf of our constituents, we would prefer that the quality of the water be suitable for wading, boating, swimming and other recreational activities. Instead, under the current conditions, up to 15 billion gallons of untreated wastewater is discharged into this section of the Delaware every year. This sewage and runoff pollution can contain toxic substances, bacteria, and viruses and result in intestinal infections, vomiting, fever, headache and other illnesses.

[We join the US EPA](#) in strongly urging the Commonwealth to end this exemption that allows more pollution in the Delaware River in and around Philadelphia. Ensuring that DEP sets a good water quality standard from this portion of the River is key to ensuring that it is a cleaner and healthier segment of the river.

Ensuring that this water is safe and healthy is a matter of health, safety, and of environmental justice for the predominantly black and brown communities living in Philadelphia and the City of Chester. Our constituents deserve the same clean water protections as more affluent communities up and down the Delaware River.

Thank you for taking this into consideration. We hope you will amend the 2023 proposed Triennial Review for the Delaware River to include primary contact water quality standards for the 27-mile stretch of the river that runs through Philadelphia and the City of Chester.

Sincerely,

State Representative Elizabeth Fiedler  
State Representative Lisa Borowski

Speaker of the House Matthew Bradford  
State Representative Tim Brennan

State Representative Tim Briggs  
State Representative Morgan Cephas  
State Representative Mary Jo Daley  
State Representative Dave Dellosa  
State Representative Danielle  
Friel-Otten  
State Representative Joe Hohenstein  
State Representative Mary Isaacson  
State Representative Carol Kazeem  
State Representative Malcolm Kenyatta  
State Representative Tarik Khan  
State Representative Rick Krajewski  
State Representative Jennifer O'Mara

State Representative Darisha Parker  
State Representative Chris Pielli  
State Representative Tarah Probst  
State Representative Chris Rabb  
State Representative Ben Sanchez  
State Representative Chris Sappey  
State Representative Greg Scott  
State Representative Melissa  
Shusterman  
Chairman of the House Environmental  
and Energy Resources Committee Greg  
Vitali  
State Representative Ben Waxman  
State Representative Joe Webster

State Senator Amanda Cappelletti  
State Senator Carolyn Comitta

State Senator Jimmy Dillon  
State Senator Steve Santarsiero  
State Senator Nikil Saval

Michele Becci, Councilwoman, New Hope Boro  
Joseph F. Boylan, Morton Borough Council, Finance Chair  
Larry Browne, Doylestown Borough Council  
Phil Dague, Mayor Borough of Downingtown  
Louise Feder, New Hope Borough Councilwoman  
Joseph Frederick, Doylestown Borough Council  
Connie Gering, President New Hope Borough  
Jim Lee, Ward 3 Commissioner, Springfield Township  
Christopher Manero, Chair, Plymouth Township Council  
Wendy Margolis, Vice President of Doylestown Borough Council  
Josh Maxwell, Chester County Commissioner  
Martin Miller, Commissioner, West Norriton Township  
Gary Neights, Lower Providence Township Supervisor  
Robert Kinney, Council-member Elect, Doylestown Borough  
Tina Sokolowski, Vice President Conshohocken Borough Council  
John Spiegelman, Ward 11 Commissioner & Board President Emeritus, Abington Twp  
Mark Squilla, Philadelphia City Councilman  
Sharon Yates, Township Supervisor, Valley Township

